

Talking points .

Stop Bournda Quarry

You're probably seen the signs along Sapphire Coast Drive saying NO BOURNDA QUARRY. Well the issue is going to come to council very soon & we hope to explain to you ~ what you need to know and

Why the Community Should Be Concerned

1. Location Matters

The proposed quarry site lies inland from Wallagoot Lake on a 70-metre ridge, immediately adjacent to the Bournda Nature Reserve.

This area forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting inland habitat to the coastal national park system around Bournda and the northern side of Wallagoot Lake.

The site has been inactive for more than 10 years and sits within a biodiverse area of bushland that supports important wildlife populations, including a number of federally listed endangered species.

Despite this, the site is now proposed to become a blast and rock-crushing quarry.

2. Environmental Zoning

The land is currently zoned E3 and E4 – Environmental Management and Environmental Living.

These zones are intended to protect environmental values and manage sensitive landscapes.

Industrial activities are generally not consistent with the intent of these zones, yet approval is now being sought for an industrial extractive operation.

3. What the Proposal Involves

The development proposal would:

- Open a blast quarry approximately 30 metres deep**

- Crush silica-bearing rhyolite rock
- Truck material out using approximately 60 heavy vehicle movements per day onto our local roads and through our towns
- Process approximately 30,000 tonnes of rock per year
- Continue operations for up to 15 years

This would introduce industrial activity into a nature-based tourism and rural living landscape.

4. Impacts on the Area

The impacts are not limited to the quarry site itself.

They include:

Loss of Amenity

The Bournda–Wallagoot region is widely recognised as one of the nature tourism jewels of the Sapphire Coast.

Blasting, crushing, heavy trucks and industrial noise would fundamentally change the character of this landscape.

Wildlife Impacts

The area supports species listed as Vulnerable to Extinction, including:

- Glossy Black Cockatoos (Casuarina feeding trees and fledgling birds recorded on site)
- Gang-Gang Cockatoos
- Yellow-bellied Gliders (recorded in area)

This wildlife corridor allows animals to move between inland habitat and coastal reserves.

A quarry placed directly within this corridor fragments that connection.

5. Public Health Concerns – Respirable Crystalline Silica

One of the most important issues is public health.

Crushing rhyolite rock produces respirable crystalline silica (RCS) dust.

RCS is:

- invisible
- a known human carcinogen
- the cause of silicosis, an irreversible lung disease

Australia recently halved the workplace exposure standard because earlier limits were not sufficiently protective. There is NO safe level of exposure. (Remember asbestos.?)

Residents could potentially be exposed 24 hours a day for decades, unlike workers who are exposed only during working hours.

6. Lack of Proper Assessment

At present there are major gaps in the assessment of this risk.

- The silica content of the rhyolite has not been publicly measured
- The respirable crystalline silica fraction has not been tested
- Dust dispersion modelling appears based on idealised assumptions rather than realistic valley conditions
- There is no silica-specific monitoring proposed

Where public health is concerned, this lack of evidence is unacceptable.

The absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.

Proper dust and silica assessment must occur before any assumption of “no health risk” is made.

7. Why This Matters

Once approved, this development would introduce:

- blasting
- rock crushing
- heavy truck traffic
- long-term silica dust generation

into a sensitive environmental and tourism landscape for the foreseeable future. The impacts will not be limited to the immediate site as heavy trucks move through our communities on our roads.

This decision has long-term consequences for the environment, public health, and the identity of the Sapphire Coast.

8. What You Can Do

Council will soon be considering this proposal.

Community members can:

- **Watch the Council agenda**
- **Attend the Council meeting when the decision is discussed**
- **Contact councillors and express your concerns**
- **Help protect the natural values of the Bournda–Wallagoot area**

**More information:
stopbourndaquarry.org**